

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)	ORDER GRANTING
STERLING INTERNATIONAL FUNDING, INC.)	CERTIFICATE OF
D/B/A RECONEX FOR A CERTIFICATE OF)	AUTHORITY
AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE)	
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN)	TC97-160
SOUTH DAKOTA)	

On September 24, 1997, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission), in accordance with SDCL 49-31-3 and ARSD 20:10:24:02, received an application for a certificate of authority from Sterling International Funding, Inc. d/b/a Reconex (Reconex).

Reconex proposes to offer service in the areas and exchanges currently being served by U S WEST. Reconex is an alternative telephone company primarily furnishing prepaid local dial tone service to individuals who have had their telephone disconnected, have voluntarily left their local exchange provider, or for money management reasons, prefer to address their local calling needs in a prepaid fashion at a set fee. A proposed tariff was filed by Reconex. The Commission has classified long distance service as fully competitive.

On September 25, 1997, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of October 10, 1997, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed. At its regularly scheduled May 28, 1998, meeting, the Commission considered Reconex's request for a certificate of authority. The Commission found that Reconex had not met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority and denied the application. On July 1, 1998, Reconex filed a Motion for Application of Rehearing for a Certificate of Authority which the Commission granted on July 23, 1998.

Commission Staff submitted a data request to Reconex which the company responded to in a timely manner. At its regularly scheduled October 27, 1998, meeting, the Commission considered Reconex's request for a certificate of authority. Commission Staff recommended granting a certificate of authority.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-31, specifically 49-31-3 and ARSD 20:10:24:02 and 20:10:24:03. The Commission finds that Reconex has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. Reconex has, in accordance with SDCL 49-31-3, demonstrated sufficient technical, financial and managerial capabilities to offer telecommunications services in South Dakota. The Commission approves Reconex's application for a certificate of authority. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that Reconex's application for a certificate of authority is hereby granted. It is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Reconex shall file informational copies of tariff changes with the Commission as the changes occur.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 4th day of November, 1998.

<p align="center">CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</p> <p>The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.</p> <p>By: <u>Helaine Kaebo</u></p> <p>Date: <u>11/4/98</u></p> <p align="center">(OFFICIAL SEAL)</p>

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson
PAM NELSON, Commissioner

Laska Schoenfelder
LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner